



**Idaho Education Network**  
**Program Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC)**  
**August 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes**  
*(approved by Council September 14, 2010)*

The August 10, 2010 meeting of the IEN Program Resource Advisory Council was held in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the Len B. Jordan Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members/Alternate(s) Present:**

Tom Luna (Chair), Superintendent of Public Instruction  
John Miller, Dean of Off Campus Instruction, College of Southern Idaho  
Jerry Reininger, Director of Information Systems, Meridian School District  
Alicia Ritter, Ritter Consulting  
Shelly Sayer, Premier Technology Inc.  
Teresa Luna, Interim Director, Dept. of Administration  
Sen. John Goedde, Chairman of Senate Education Committee  
Rep. Darrell Bolz, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee  
Sen. Bert Brackett, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee  
Sen. Shawn Keough, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (VTC)  
Rep. Bob Nonini, Chairman of House of Representatives Education Committee (VTC)

**Alternate**

Cheryl Charlton, Idaho Digital Learning Academy

**Absent Members**

Rep. Wendy Jaquet, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee  
Donna Hutchison, CEO, Idaho Digital Learning Academy

**Others Present:**

Crystal Bowen, Special Agent, FBI (VTC)	Garry Lough, IEN
Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO	Jodi McCrosky, Qwest
Bob Collie, ENA (VTC)	Keith Murphy, Qwest
Jamie Green, NIC (VTC)	Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co.
Jon Isakson, Special Agent, FBI (VTC)	Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN
William Knickrhem, Emmett School District	Joel Strickler, Qwest
Brady Kraft, IEN	Mike Vance, ENA
Oliver Landow, ENA	Greg Zickau, OCIO

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Sen. Goedde moved and Rep. Bolz seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 13, 2010 with one minor correction; the motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING: MANAGEMENT OF STIMULUS FUNDS**

Given that the IEN is expending stimulus funds during the initial rollout of the project, it was felt appropriate to invite Special Agents Jon Isakson and Crystal Bowen to provide insight from the FBI's standpoint regarding the potential mismanagement of this funding.

Special Agent Isakson explained that he and Special Agent Bowen were coordinating the efforts of the FBI in the states of Utah, Idaho and Montana with regard to stimulus funding and any investigations of misconduct. Following the passing of the Stimulus Act, each state was allocated a portion of 787 billion dollars. Idaho was assigned approximately 1.6 billion dollars, of which, to date, approximately 735 million dollars has been received. The FBI is making efforts to avoid the possibility of money being lost through fraud or corruption, as happened, for example, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Agency is monitoring the money that is being spent and has people in place to watch for illegal activity.

Special Agent Isakson noted that corruption or embezzlement has traditionally occurred with infrastructure projects and advised the council of two particular areas where fraudulent activity might be found:

- in the process of awarding contracts: it is possible for corruption to occur in the soliciting of kickbacks or the acting for bribes by people who are in a position to award contracts; there can also be problems in the bidding process if fair bids are not allowed to take place.
- in the allocation of funds: there can be corruption or embezzlement on the part of government employees who manage the process of money flowing from Washington through the federal government to the state or local level, or directly to private contractors.

The Stimulus Bill (ARRA) is an earmark-free project and Council members were encouraged to advise the FBI of anything improper occurring such as the earmarking of funding by politicians. Special Agent Isakson commented on "phonemarking", where a politician will call up a state employee and encourage them, or put pressure on them, to steer a project into the hands of a particular contract.

Special Agent Isakson noted that the FBI is working to create a team environment, in which the FBI and federal prosecutors are working together with state, county and city levels of government to detect whether any violations are taking place.

Council members were encouraged to contact Special Agents Isakson and Bowen should they have suspicions of illegal activity that might rise to the level of violating federal law, or even if they have further questions. (Contact information is available through Brady Kraft and will be shared with Council members.)

### **Questions and Discussion**

Noting that IEN funding comes not only from stimulus funds but also through E-Rate, Foundation, and State sources, Supt. Luna queried whether FBI oversight extended beyond the \$3M of stimulus funds. Special Agent Isakson explained that although they have a particular interest in the management of stimulus funding, their interest did extend to any allegation of criminal wrongdoing, especially if it involved publicly-elected officials or any government official or employee in a position of trust within the State.

## **TERMS OF SERVICE FOR IPRAC MEMBERS**

Following the reconstitution of the Council, there are four members for whom terms of service are specified in statute (67-5745E). Terms of service have been allocated as follows:

Representing public and higher education: Dr Jerry Reininger – 1 year / Dr John Miller – 2 years

Representing the private sector: Shelly Sayer – 2 years / Alicia Ritter – 3 years

Following these terms, each of these members will serve an additional four years.

## UPDATES

### COMMUNICATIONS

Garry Lough reported that most of the communications efforts since the last meeting have occurred in the past week as part of “back to school” meetings involving superintendents, school administrators and parents.

Additionally:

- Governor Otter has indicated that he will periodically address a few schools at a time over the IEN – topics will vary and this will probably happen quarterly or bi-monthly;
- work has begun with the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation’s public awareness campaign, this will include a revamp of the IEN website in order to highlight local efforts;
- the Capitol Mall training room is being used now on a daily basis;
- the Dept. of Education is leveraging IEN technology to serve distant school districts, Special Education conference will be conducted over the IEN network;
- about 20 participants connected to a “back to school” webinar.

### Questions and Discussion

Based on feedback received, Dr Miller suggested focusing on the community element in the coming months.

Mr. Kraft explained that Proctor (4 hours) and Originator (16 hours) training was currently taking place. This is a pre-requisite for receiving the stipend. Teachers will also have the opportunity to participate in three workshops over the course of the year, where ideas and frustrations can be shared. Teachers have to be an originator to be eligible for the stipend. The process is underway to make teachers who take the training, eligible to receive a professional development graduate credit. The curriculum is currently approved through BSU, 30 hours translates to two professional development credits.

### CURRICULUM AVAILABLE

Garry Lough explained that there were no major changes at this time in the IEN VTC curriculum being offered. Much of his time was currently spent facilitating intra-district, high school to high school exchanges. It was noted that the current emphasis is on core curriculum. Mr. Lough commented that there are 43 variations of class schedules, so the more flexible the higher education institutions can be in aligning their interests with those of the schools, the greater the growth will be.

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jerry Reininger reported back on the August 4 meeting of the Technical Committee.

- Security issues around availability of IP addresses: Terry Pobst-Martin (Chief Information Security Officer for the state) had advised that the purpose of the IEN far outweighs the current potential threat level. The only concern is denial-of-service attacks, but similar networks have not experienced this. Ms Pobst-Martin will continue to evaluate the situation and update the committee annually, or sooner if necessary.
- Guidelines for recording classes: Brady Kraft produced a guideline which will become part of a larger online procedure manual.
- ISP meeting June 3: Greg Zickau had reported, summary notes were emailed to IPRAC members on August 9.
- Connections for next fall: Brady Kraft had provided an update on connections, at that time there were 40 districts completed, 12 in progress. By December 70% of all the high schools in the state will be connected to the IEN. Connections are ahead of schedule at this time.
- Bandwidth Rates and Consumption: ENA had reported that in July 2009 there had been no bandwidth deployed, now there are over 500 Mbs deployed, which is great progress.
- New IEN staff member: Mike Costa will be joining the IEN staff on August 16 as a VTC Program Specialist. He will take over the technical support internally and interface with school districts, ENA and One Vision.
- Training Room: a new training facility has been built (without IEN funds) within the Capitol Mall area (under the parking garage). Teacher training has already started and will last about four weeks.
- Lawsuit: Counts 1 through 3 have been dismissed.

### Questions and Discussion

A query was raised about the overall security monitoring of the IEN, ENA will demonstrate their NOC (Network Operations Center) at a future meeting.

Jerry Piper (Cambridge Telephone Company) raised a question regarding the potential one-off solution using alternate providers, discussed at the last IPRAC meeting (July 13). Mr. Piper noted that he had raised this question at the IEN Technical Committee meeting of August 4 and he questioned, given the connectivity in Salmon, whether it would be possible to offer other rural schools the same wholesale-type solution, as this would enable them to be connected by the end of the week. Dr Reininger advised against circumventing the RFP and the contracts already in place. Greg Zickau (Office of the CIO) noted that Mr. Piper had previously been advised that he should raise this matter with Qwest and ENA. Mr. Zickau also noted that for the State to circumvent the current contracts would not only be a violation of those contracts, but may also constitute a felony (referring to the FBI presentation heard earlier in this meeting). However, the State *would* be willing to facilitate conversations if there appeared to be some benefit to the IEN.

### QWEST

Joel Strickler shared with the Council a "Service Availability Request" document, produced in collaboration with ENA as an opportunity for infrastructure service providers to provide information about new or additional service options, particularly for rural, high-cost locations. This document has been shared with Intermax Networks, First Step Internet, J&R Electronics, Microserve, TekHut and Syringa Networks. Qwest and ENA will be vetting companies in terms of technology, operations and finance.

### ENA

Mike Vance reported that approval for the State E-Rate application should be received in the near future, with no issues anticipated. Mr. Vance also provided a brief explanation of the ENA Network Operations Center (NOC), this will be showcased at the next meeting. There is an increase in activity as schools prepare for the new year, and ENA and Qwest are well positioned to assist schools with any technology or E-Rate matters. Responding to Sen. Keough, Mr. Vance advised that Priest River High School should be connected within the next week.

### NEW BUSINESS

Supt. Luna asked Council members whether they felt meetings should revert to being held on a bi-monthly basis. No opinions were expressed either way. It was noted that the November meeting needs to be rescheduled as it falls during the North Idaho Legislative Tour.

Supt. Luna noted that Mike Gwartney had resigned as Director from the Department of Administration and that a debt of gratitude was owed to him, as he had been the driving force in getting the IEN project started and funded. Teresa Luna is the interim Director for the Department of Administration and will therefore be attending IPRAC meetings as interim Co-Chair.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2010 at 1:00pm in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the LBJ Building, 650 West State Street.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO